

Date:	24th May/25th May 2025		Sixth Sunday of Easter	
Mass Time:	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading &amp; Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading &amp; Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
5:00 PM	Ed Junis	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Anne Maureen Scarff	Chris Wilson
8:00 AM	Randall Noney	Tanya Graham	Ros Comfort	
9:30 AM	John Belfanti	Lisa Vaughan	Matt Aldous	Streeters

  

Date:	31st May/1st June 2025		The Ascension of the Lord	
Mass Time:	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading &amp; Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading &amp; Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
5:00 PM	Ian Miles	Margaret Smith	Wilhelmina de Raadt	Andrew Wilson
8:00 AM	Marek Grus	Domhnall MacCormac	Kim Crawford	
9:30 AM	Bernard Ellis	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Chris Wilson
Morning Tea:	East Timor			

KID'S CORNER



Below are some of the people we have to obey. Who are they and what sort of things do they ask us to do?

Draw a picture of another person who you obey. How are you obedient?

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to help us obey him. Write down the things that the Holy Spirit can help you do for Jesus.

What did Jesus tell his disciples about the Holy Spirit? Unscramble the tiles below to reveal his message.

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St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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**Parish Email:** email: [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)  
**Parish Website:** [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au)  
**Parish Facebook Page:** St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood  
**Parish Administrator:** Rev Christopher del Rosario (E: [christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org](mailto:christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org))  
**Parish Pastoral Council:** Email suggestions to [springwoodparishpc@gmail.com](mailto:springwoodparishpc@gmail.com)  
**Parish Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am and 9:30 am  
**Weekday Mass:** Monday - Saturday 9:30 am  
**Adoration:** Monday - Saturday from 8:15 am - 9:15 am  
**First Friday Adoration:** Every first Friday of the month 5:30 pm  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4:00-5:00 pm before the Vigil Mass  
**Children's Liturgy:** 3rd Sunday of every month, 9:30 am  
**Baptisms:** 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 11:00 am and by appointment  
**Weddings:** By appointment  
**Funerals:** Please Contact the Parish Office



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We respect the Darug people and their elders both past and present, as the traditional custodians of this land on which we celebrate the Eucharist.

Gospel Reflection by Pope Francis

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!

In the Gospel of today's Liturgy, bidding his disciples goodbye during the Last Supper, Jesus says almost as a sort of testament: "Peace I leave with you". And he adds immediately, "My peace I give to you" (Jn 14:27). Let us reflect on these short phrases.

First of all, *peace I leave with you*. Jesus bids farewell with words expressing affection and serenity. But he does so in a moment that is anything but serene. Judas has left to betray him, Peter is about to deny him, and almost everyone else to abandon him. The Lord knows this, and yet, he does not rebuke, he does not use severe words, he does not give harsh speeches. Rather than demonstrate agitation, he remains kind until the end. There is a proverb that says you die the way you have lived. In effect, the last hours of Jesus' life are like the essence of his entire life. He feels fear and pain, but does not give way to resentment or protest. He does not allow himself to become bitter, he does not vent, he is not impatient. He is at peace, a peace that comes from his meek heart, inhabited by trust. This is the source of the peace Jesus gives us. For no one can leave others peace if they do not have it within themselves. No one can *give* peace unless that person *is* at peace.

*Peace I leave with you:* Jesus demonstrates that meekness is possible. He incarnated it precisely in the most difficult moment, and he wants us to behave that way too, since we are the heirs of his peace. He wants us to be meek, open, available to listen, capable of defusing tensions and weaving harmony. This is witnessing to Jesus and is worth more than a thousand words and many sermons. The witness of peace. As disciples of Jesus, let us ask ourselves if we behave like this where we live: do we ease tensions, do we defuse conflicts? Are we too at odds with someone, always ready to react, explode, or do we know how to respond non-violently, do we know how to respond with peaceful actions and words? How do I react? Everyone should ask themselves this.

Certainly, this meekness is not easy. How difficult it is, at every level, to defuse conflicts! Jesus' second phrase comes to our aid here: *my peace I give you*. Jesus knows that on our own we are not able to keep peace, that we need help, that we need a gift. Peace, which is our obligation, is first of all a gift of God. In fact, Jesus says: "My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you" (v. 27). What is this peace that the world does not know and the Lord gives us? This peace is the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit of Jesus. It is the presence of God in us, it is God's "power of peace". It is He, the Holy Spirit, who disarms the heart and fills it with serenity. It is He, the Holy Spirit, who loosens rigidity and extinguishes the temptations to attack others. It is He, the Holy Spirit, who reminds us that there are brothers and sisters beside us, not obstacles or adversaries. It is He, the Holy Spirit, who gives us the strength to forgive, to begin again, to set out anew because we cannot do this with our own strength. And it is with Him, with the Holy Spirit, that we become men and women of peace.

Dear brothers and sisters, no sin, no failure, no grudge should discourage us from insistently asking for this gift from the Holy Spirit who gives us peace. The more we feel our hearts are agitated, the more we sense we are nervous, impatient, angry inside, the more we need to ask the Lord for the Spirit of peace. Let us learn to say every day: "Lord, give me your peace, give me your Holy Spirit". This is a beautiful prayer. Shall we say it together? "Lord, give me your peace, give me your Holy Spirit". I didn't hear it well. One more time: "Lord, give me your peace, give me your Holy Spirit". And let us also ask this for those who live next to us, for those we meet each day, and for the leaders of nations.

May Our Lady help us welcome the Holy Spirit so we can be peacemakers.



### Entrance Antiphon Cf Isaiah 48:20

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;  
proclaim to the ends of the earth:  
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

### First Reading Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2, 22-29

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves not to burden you beyond what is essential.*

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8, R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

- O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
- Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
- Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

### Second Reading Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse  
*He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.*

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

### Gospel Acclamation John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!  
All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel John 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.'

### Communion Antiphon John 14:15-16

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia



**Recently Deceased:** Pope Francis, Lillian Andrade, John Cornthwaite, Hazel Wood, Michelle Thomas, Argyna Santiago  
**Sick:** Naziha George, Peter Avery, Colleen Baker, John Hunia, Eva Fitzgerald, Philip Coggan, James Connor, Richard Ford, Julie Somerville, Fr Bob Bossini, Dane San Pedro, Marama Watson **and all Private Intentions. Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.**

## PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

### FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING OUR PARISH AND ITS WORKS:

Please support our Parish and its projects.

- Direct Debit:** Please contact the Parish Office for more details.
- Direct Deposit:** Details are as follows:  
Bank Account Name: Springwood; BSB: 067-950  
Bank Account Number: 00000560  
Reference: Your name in full.

**FIRST COLLECTION: This goes to the Board of Management.** The fund supports the living expenses of the priests within our Diocese.

**SECOND COLLECTION: This goes to our Parish of St Thomas Aquinas**—directly funding operational costs, pastoral activities and various programs that enrich our community.

**MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES** are also available which can be used to express your ongoing generosity and support. Thank you.

**WE ARE NOW ON INSTAGRAM:** For all the latest information and updates about our parish, please follow our page @stthomasaquinas\_springwoodnsw



**SPRINGWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH MEETING** is on every Sunday from 5-7pm. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other young Catholics, share about the faith and enjoy a community of prayer. Anyone interested and who is between 18 and 35 years of age please contact Noah Tabone on 0493 490 960.



We welcome into our Catholic Christian family the following children who were recently baptised here:

*Vincent Raphael Baracz  
Caleb Joseph Vaar*

**THE SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS LADIES FELLOWSHIP** would like to thank parishioners who supported the Biggest Morning Tea and gave donations for the Cancer Council. The money raised supports cancer patients, and Cancer research. It was a fun morning with delicious food and lots of prizes. The grand total was \$1,138. Thank you.

**YOUNG ADULT FAITH FORMATION** sessions continue on **Sunday 1st June 2025** at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, South Mt Druitt (9 Ropes Creek Rd Mt Druitt) at 7pm. The speaker is Sr Agnes who will talk about and lead discussion on St Padre Pio. All adults 18-35 are encouraged to come along and enjoy some faith formation, pizza, and fellowship! If you have any questions, please call Mark on 0477 004 678.

**BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL FOR OUR HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARIANS:** Will you help our seminarians to be 'Pilgrims and Sowers of Hope' for God's people? With your prayers and generosity, they can continue to grow in faith and formation, as they prepare to become priests who will sow hope, faith and love in the hearts of God's people. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thanks



### MOUNTAINS PRIMARY SCHOOLS OFFER FEE DISCOUNTS:

To help more families access quality Catholic education, three local schools are offering major fee discounts from 2026 (T&Cs apply). Our Lady of the Nativity Lawson and St Thomas Aquinas Springwood will offer a **50% discount on Diocesan fees** while St Canice's Katoomba will be **fee-free!** Contact the schools or visit their websites to learn more.

**WEEKDAY ADORATION & MASS:** Please note the following changes effective 2nd June 2025:

Mondays - No Adoration; No Mass  
Tuesdays - Adoration: 8:15am and 6pm; Mass: 9:30am and 7pm  
Wednesday to Saturdays - Adoration: 8:15am; Mass: 9:30am

**FR CHRIS' FAREWELL MORNING TEA:** Father Chris' last mass will be **June 1st 2025**, we will be holding a Morning Farewell Breakfast after the 9.30am Mass. For those who wish to donate a plate of food or drinks for the occasion please contact the office or email us at [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org).

### 2025 STA Confirmation Sacramental Program Candidates



*We kindly request our parish community to keep in your prayers the children who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday, 28th May 2025. Let us pray for their continued growth in faith and for their families to be strengthened and guided by God's love as they accompany their children towards this important sacrament. Your spiritual support is greatly appreciated as we together nurture the faith of the young members of our parish family.*

**ST THOMAS AQUINAS READING GROUP:** Parishioners who are eager to take on the exciting challenge of knowing more about our Patron Saint are more than welcome to attend. This is an ongoing session **every Sunday at 3pm** in our Parish Centre.



### FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

*'BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED THAT WHAT WAS SPOKEN TO YOU BY THE LORD WOULD BE FULFILLED.'*

May 31st

All generations will call be blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. (Lk 1:48-49)

**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI' (May 24)** Laudato Si' Week is a celebration held annually in May to mark the anniversary of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical on caring for creation. It is also a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the incredible inspiration of Pope Francis in caring for our common home. Our focus this year is debt, and the impact debt has on earth and each other. Together, we can *Turn Debt into Hope* and build a **more just world**. A copy of Laudato Si is available in the PARISH LIBRARY at the Hawkesbury Road side of the Church.

**SPRINGWOOD EAST TIMOR SUPPORT GROUP (SETSG):** 26<sup>th</sup> Annual **Trivia Night** will be held on **SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE** at the STA School Hall from 7:00pm. Entry is \$20 per head. Tables of 8-10. All funds raised go to support medical and educational projects in East Timor. Thanks to the many Parishioners who have supported these projects over the years. It is always a fun night and you will be in great company! For enquiries and bookings - call Dennis 0425 209 840.

**BABYSITTER WANTED:** We are looking for an occasional babysitter during working hours. \$25 per hour. Would be to mind our 4 yr, 2 yr and 8 month old. Location: Valley Heights. Email: [horsfallclare@gmail.com](mailto:horsfallclare@gmail.com) or call 0407 400 841. Thank you.